

10 November 1987



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JPRS Report

Epidemiology

Epidemiology

JPRS-TEP-87-022

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BANGLADESH

Editorial Urges Better Rabies Control Efforts

54500020 Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English
7 Sep 87 p 5

[Text] Cases are sometimes reported from far-flung areas of patients dying from an attack of rabies due to non-availability of anti-rabies vaccine. Even district hospitals sometimes fail to supply this life-saving medicine and it has to be procured from the government's central store or the public health institute at Mahakhali in the capital. The common drug stores are not permitted to stock the medicine. In a recent instance a victim of dog bite in a village in Manikganj could not find any treatment at Manikganj Sadar Hospital, according to a letter published in a local Bengali daily.

It may not be possible for certain categories of scarce medicines to be dispensed at retail shops. But it is not understandable why a district hospital should fail to provide it. A way has to be found to make the treatment available to poor patients who cannot travel all the way to the capital and to those who cannot throw around their weight. We would suggest that subject to maintenance of storage provisions, the vaccine should be made available at district hospitals. While the overall incidence of the affliction seems to be declining, the poor people in remote areas find themselves helpless.

But this is one aspect of the battle against rabies. To free the country of rabies is not impossible if sustained efforts are made to eliminate the suspect and carrier dogs and immunize the rest. An intensified effort by the health authorities and the local bodies and increased cooperation by members of the public, particularly owners and lovers of dogs, can help it rid the country of rabies. But the control and eradication of rabies does not seem to be on the government's priority list.

/9738

Problems in Treating Flood-Related Diarrhea Epidemic

54500019 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Sep 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] Water borne diseases have broken out in an epidemic form throughout the country.

At least 300-350 diarrhoeal patients are visiting the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) at Mahakhali daily. Most of the patients are from the city and its adjoining areas. The rush of patients began to swell from the first week of last month, according to ICDDR,B sources.

ICDDR,B has sent six medical teams to the worst affected areas of Dinajpur, Bogra, Naogaon, Gaibandha, Jamalpur and Comilla districts. The teams consisting of physicians will treat patients and assist the local health authorities in

combating the diarrhoeal disease. Large numbers of patients are also being treated at Matlab and Teknaf centres. ICDDR,B teams are also working in Serajganj and Noapara along with government health officials.

Volunteers are also active in the slum areas of Dhaka city and ICDDR,B has doubled its ORS production to meet the increasing demand.

Diarrhoeal disease has broken out in an alarming form also in Nilphamari, according to CPB sources. People in hundreds have fallen victims to various water borne diseases, it said. Seven persons died of water borne diseases there, it said.

ICDDR,B having an accommodation capacity of about 200 patients at Mahakhali is facing problems of accommodations under pressure of large numbers of patients, according to an official. It is even contemplating alternative accommodation of patients through setting up of temporary camps, the source said.

Dhaka Municipal Corporation source talking to this correspondent said that it was hard put to handle large numbers of inmates of 186 camps. One vaccinator has however, been engaged for each of 125 out of 186 camps, the sources said. It has formed a total of about 40 medical teams comprising one medical officer and one nursing staff to attend the patients. DMC has distributed 22,500 packets of ORS, one lake water purifying tablets and also some essential drugs among the inmates of the camps. It has distributed 156 drums of bleaching powder for its 75 wards, the source said.

The DMC medical teams have also distributed a seizable quantity of TABC injection. It is exhausting its annual stock of medicines to cope with the increasing needs of patients, the source said.

Col. (Retd) Sabur, Chief Medical Officer of DMC while talking to this correspondent on Tuesday said that DMC has procured some essential drugs from the Central Medical Store of the Government to replenish its stock. It has got supply of some drugs also from World Health Organization (WHO), he said.

As regards death from water borne diseases, he said that to his knowledge only three persons died in the city.

Bleaching powder is produced locally by a lone firm at Chittagong and distributed by the Government. The sale of bleaching powder in open market is prohibited. It however finds its place in black market and sold at higher prices. Water purifying tablet is also a free item and is not supposed to be sold. Sometimes it is also available in the market at high prices.

One water purifying table is good for two kg of water for purification.

60 Die of Diarrhoea in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar

Our Chittagong Office adds: Diarrhoea and other diseases have broken out in an epidemic form in flood affected areas of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts. The diseases have so far claimed 60 lives in these two districts.

According to official sources, the breakup of the persons died of diarrhoea are 33 from Cox's Bazar and the remaining 27 Chittagong.

Diarrhoea claimed the lives of 25 persons in Chokoria upazila of Cox's Bazar besides eight persons also fell prey to the disease in Ramu upazila of this district. Diarrhoea has reportedly also broken out in Ukhiya and Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila.

In Chittagong district, diarrhoea has claimed the lives of ten in Mirersharai, four in Chandanaish, two in Boalkhali, three in Anowara, two in Hathazari, three in Patiya upazilas and three in Chittagong sadar.

/9738

CANADA

AIDS Reclassification, Study, British Columbia Incidence

Broadened Classification

54200003 Toronto *THE GLOBE AND MAIL* in English 17 Sep 87 p A3

[Article by Joan Breckenridge]

[Text] The number of AIDS cases in Canada will rise 10 to 15 percent within the next six months because of a reclassification of cases by the federal Government, a spokesman for the Federal AIDS Centre said.

"The numbers will go up because the case definitions are broader," Kimberly Elmslie, an epidemiologist with the AIDS centre in Ottawa, said. The new classifications are effective immediately.

"We'll be encouraging the provinces to look back and see if any excluded cases could now be included under the new definitions," Mrs. Elmslie said.

As of Sept. 14, 1,258 Canadians had been diagnosed as having acquired immune deficiency syndrome, a virus that destroys the body's immune system making it vulnerable to a host of infections and diseases.

Under the new criteria, dementia or wasting syndrome in conjunction with a positive AIDS antibody test will be diagnosed as AIDS.

Over time, these two symptoms have manifested themselves enough in people testing positive to be considered indicative of the disease.

Under the old criteria, an official AIDS diagnosis required a positive AIDS antibody test along with a diagnosis of pneumocystis carinii pneumonia or Kaposi's sarcoma, a rare form of cancer. A positive test alone does not constitute a diagnosis of AIDS.

As a result, people who were testing positive and were suffering from dementia or wasting syndrome were not classified as having AIDS, Mrs. Elmslie said.

People were dying without ever having been officially diagnosed although they were being medically treated as AIDS patients.

Dementia occurs when the central nervous system is attacked by the virus, thus hampering a person's ability to think, feel, talk and move. Wasting syndrome, which is called slim disease in countries such as those in Africa, manifests itself as extreme weight loss.

The inclusion of a new illness that is seen in children with AIDS—lymphoid interstitial pneumonia—may see the number of pediatric cases rise. Statistics from the Federal AIDS Centre show that 25 children have been reported as having AIDS.

The majority of pediatric AIDS cases are in Montreal. Dr. Normand Lapointe, an immunologist at Ste. Justine's Hospital, was quoted recently as saying that in the past six years, 45 children in Quebec alone have been identified as having AIDS.

5qThe AIDS Related Complex (ARC) category is now being dropped. Anyone with a positive test suffering from ARC symptoms such as profound weight loss, weakness, a constant fever greater than 38.5 Celsius, swollen lymph glands, diarrhea and night sweats who are not diagnosed with another disease will be classified as having AIDS.

This new definition could deal a severe blow to people with ARC. This subgroup of people has consoled itself by saying a diagnosis of ARC did not necessarily mean they would go on to develop a full case of AIDS.

AIDS statistics are expected to rise around the world as other governments also change their case classifications. They are adopting the Atlanta Centres for Disease Control's new guidelines outlining what constitutes AIDS.

When the first new statistics come out in November, they will be separated from the cases classified under the old guidelines. The statistics in the groups engaging in high-risk activities will now be divided by sex instead of lumping men and women together.

"We are doing this because we think everybody needs to know how the disease is manifesting itself amongst men and women," as it enters the heterosexual population, Mrs. Elmslie said. Long-term statistical projections will also be made.

Kenya Circumcision Study

54200003 Vancouver THE SUN in English 14 Sep 87
p A10

[Text] Winnipeg—A study of AIDS in Kenya has found men who are circumcised have a significantly reduced risk of contracting the deadly AIDS virus, a University of Manitoba researcher said at a weekend conference.

Dr. Francis Plummer said the study of more than 300 heterosexual men found those who were circumcised were three to four times less likely to become infected with the acquired immune deficiency syndrome virus.

"It appears to be a very strong association and it's probably right," Plummer said at a news conference at the annual meeting of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons.

He said researchers are unsure of the reasons circumcised men are less likely to contract the virus, and the results of the study should be confirmed by more research.

"It may be a phenomenon of surface area, that there's more skin exposed," he said.

He said the information could have major implications for parents making decisions about circumcising baby boys.

"I would expect that there might be a movement towards more frequency of male circumcisions in some instances, but I don't know," said Plummer, adding that religious beliefs often play a large role in the decision of whether or not to circumcise.

He also said a study of prostitutes in Kenya showed that those who used oral contraceptives had a significantly higher risk of acquiring AIDS.

"It could be a direct biological effect of the oral contraceptive on the genital tract," he said. "It could be a systemic effect on the immune system—we know oral contraceptives have some effects on the immune system."

British Columbia Incidence

54200003 Vancouver THE SUN in English 15 Sep 87
p A13

[Article by Anne Mullens]

[Text] Dozens of callers phoned the new government AIDS hotline in its first hours of operation Monday as TV ads and news reports broadcast the toll-free number for the first time in the start of a province-wide education campaign against the disease.

"We've been really busy," said Dr. Michael Rekart, head of the provincial government's AIDS programs. "And most people don't even know about us yet."

The new line, part of a \$1.4-million education campaign on acquired immune deficiency syndrome, received more than 36 calls in its first four hours, Rekart said. The hotline, open 2-10 p.m. daily, is answered by nurses specializing in sexually transmitted diseases.

Monday's calls were the first indicator of public response to the new campaign carrying the motto "Be responsible...for life." The campaign includes a series of 30-second TV and radio ads, two information brochures to be mailed to every household in the province and plans for three television specials aimed at ethnic communities.

Some of the callers said they had just seen the TV ads—aired for the first time Monday afternoon—telling people to phone the hotline if they want more information.

The brochures, one giving straight forward details about AIDS and the other offering parents guidelines on how to talk to their children about AIDS, will be mailed this week.

"Every household in the province will now have current medical information on the disease and educational information on lifestyle risks related to exposure of the disease," Health Minister Peter Dueck said.

Spokesmen for local ethnic communities praised the move to create ethnic TV specials in Cantonese, Punjabi and Hindi.

There have been 270 cases of AIDS in B.C. since the first was diagnosed in January 1983. The government announced that of 26,259 tests for the AIDS antibody, 1,515 were positive, meaning those people have come in contact with the virus.

/9738

Montreal Diarrhea Outbreak

54200004 Vancouver THE SUN in English
15 Sep 87 p A6

[Text] Montreal—An outbreak of bloody diarrhea, of which 80 cases have been reported since May 1, has led health officials to advise Montreal area residents to thoroughly cook meat before eating.

/9738

CHILE

Program To Control AIDS Officially Approved

54002074b Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish
2 Jul 87 pp A1, A8

[Text] The president of the republic has signed a decree approving a specific comprehensive program for preventing and combating acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

The above was announced yesterday by Minister of Health Juan Giaconi, who said that 14 AIDS cases had been discovered in the country in the previous quarter, bringing to 42 the total number of cases since 1984, when the virus was first detected in our territory.

Dr Giaconi said during a press conference that 16 of those 42 cases had been contracted in Chile and that, so far, 22 people have died of the disease.

He emphasized that the relevant report had been sent to the WHO representative in Chile, Miguel Angel Aguilar.

That report includes all the statistics available through 30 June. He said: "It therefore includes the case of a patient from Brazil who was treated at the Iquique Hospital."

Also present at the press conference were the heads of the Planning Department and the Commission on AIDS, Drs Nestor Montecinos and Daniel Villalobos.

When questioned about the increase of almost 90 percent in the number of AIDS cases between 1985 and 1986, Minister Giaconi said that the situation should not cause alarm "because the reported cases reflect the fact that we are just entering the period when the virus manifests itself."

He explained: "Although it is very difficult to make predictions in this area, the probability exists that a similar number of cases will appear over the next few quarters. It must be kept in mind, however, that the increase will be due mainly to the admission of people associated with risk groups in other countries."

In that connection, he pointed out that the number of confirmed cases is broken down as follows:

- homosexuals: 54 percent;
- bisexuals: 21.4 percent;
- heterosexuals: 11.9 percent;
- drug addicts: 4.8 percent; and
- persons infected through blood transfusions: 2.4 percent.

He said that no one had contracted the virus through blood transfusions in Chile and that, in those cases, the disease had been contracted in other countries.

Blood Banks

When questioned about the special anti-AIDS program, he said that the president had signed the decree in question this past 12 June and that the matter was currently being dealt with by the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic.

In the first phase of that program, activity will be centered on the blood banks in state-owned hospitals in Greater Santiago and the Fifth and Eighth Regions

"because the cases discovered have occurred in those zones. Testing will then be extended to all medical centers in the rest of the territory."

The minister said that examinations of this type were being carried out in certain hospitals but that coverage was not yet complete in some of them. He pointed out, however, that the previous control program had been concerned with donors, and he added that the program would now focus on the analysis of stored samples.

As far as funds are concerned, the minister said that approximately 14 million pesos are available for the first phase. It is hoped that the program will go into operation as soon as possible. "I don't think it will be delayed more than 30 or 35 days."

Concerning the danger that Chileans will contract the disease through blood transfusions, Dr Giaconi said the risk "is very low, but we are starting this program to be sure." He also pointed out that in a major university hospital in the capital, only one out of 13,000 blood samples had tested positive.

On the question of whether, in order to avoid the danger of infection, it would be advisable for healthy persons to donate their blood—as is done in the United States—so as to have it available if they later need a blood transfusion, Minister Giaconi said that "in view of the fact that most AIDS cases occur in the risk groups (homosexuals and prostitutes), there is no reason for healthy people to do that."

In that connection, he stressed that, in the absence of any effective treatment or vaccine for the disease, "I feel that the most important thing is to stick to 'good' sexual behavior."

On that point, the head of the Commission on AIDS, Dr Daniel Villalobos, said that blood donations in Chile do not exceed 100,000, a figure that needs to be contrasted to the large number of Chileans who are fully active sexually. "Every individual needs to be aware of the problem. To a large extent, contracting the disease is a matter of individual responsibility. The Ministry of Health cannot be expected to assume a role that belongs to each individual."

At the same time, Dr Villalobos pointed out that a private system will soon be in operation for people who wish to find out, on a voluntary basis, whether or not they have the AIDS virus. That system is being set up under a plan established by the Latin American Union Against Sexually Transmitted Diseases to provide the tests at cost.

Last, Minister Giaconi announced that a serologic census (to determine the presence of the virus) was under way among high-risk groups in the ports of Antofagasta and Valparaiso.

Concerning plans to educate people about the disease, Minister Giaconi said that printed material had been distributed in the various medical centers, and he announced that another sizable quantity of brochures was in preparation. He also stressed the work done in that area by the press.

Concerning the advisability of setting up a system to identify infected individuals at the border, the minister said that "such a procedure is not being considered in the area of international relations except in the case of distant countries such as those in Western Europe. Besides, it would have no practical effect, since the characteristics of the disease are such that a certificate loses all validity after 2 weeks."

11798

New AIDS Cases, Control Measures Reported
54002079b Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA
in Spanish 14 Aug 87 p 9

[Text] The Ministry of Health confirmed yesterday that two Chileans with AIDS were infected by blood transfusions done here. One is a 12-year-old child who was seen at San Juan de Dios Hospital.

Officials reported recently that this child received blood from a woman who died of AIDS some time ago. She would have infected him.

The other AIDS patient is an adult whose diagnosis, the result of another blood transfusion, was learned several months ago. Prostitution

Dr Daniel Villalobos, vice president of the National AIDS Commission, reported that about 400 homosexual male prostitutes have registered so far at the Norte and Valparaiso-San Antonio Health Services for control of sexually transmitted diseases.

The National System of Health Services has control centers for prostitutes at all of its offices. They regularly provide female prostitutes with preventive care for sexually transmitted diseases. There are monthly checks of approximately 10,000 prostitutes throughout national territory.

Because of new technical norms for control of AIDS, they decided to add homosexual male prostitutes so that they could receive those benefits that include examinations every six months to detect gonorrhea, syphilis, and AIDS.

7717

Meningitis Cases Reported in Northern Region
54002079a Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish
12 Aug 87 p C7

[Article by Sergio Montivero Bruna]

[Text] Iquique—Last week four new cases of meningococcal meningitis were reported in this city. This reveals an alarming increase in that infectious disease.

This information was provided by Dr Jose Behm, regional secretary of the Ministry of Justice and director of health.

Iquique has had 26 cases of meningitis so far this year. This indicates that the trend is the same as last year when 42 cases were recorded. Five of those patients died; one of the 26 patients this year has died.

Dr Behm indicated that the only reasonable hope for controlling the disease is vaccination. He said: "However, the community has been rather timid."

Health authorities emphasize the need for parents to allow their children to be vaccinated.

To achieve desired results, 60,000 people between the ages of 1 and 21—the sector most likely to contract the disease—should be vaccinated.

The four cases detected last week were two children ages 4 and 8, a 19-year-old man, and a 35-year-old man.

The cases were seen at the hospital and are being treated.

Health authorities were concerned about the community's lack of interest in mass vaccination.

Medical authorities stressed that it is a serious disease; the mortality rate is 10 percent.

7717

COLOMBIA

Bill Proposes Deportation of AIDS-Infected Foreigners

54002081b Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish
11 Aug 87 pp 1, 8

[Article by Myriam Saavedra T.]

[Text] A bill submitted to the chamber by Representative Carlos Espinosa Faccio-Lince, the chairman of the Second Commission, calls for the deportation of any foreigners who tests positive for AIDS, the creation of a committee to combat the disease and the establishment of an AIDS research center.

The bill, which is an attempt to establish special measures to prevent and control AIDS, is regarded as revolutionary by circles close to the legislature. It revives regulations on epidemiological monitoring that must be applied at air, land and sea terminals.

It also provides for the Health Ministry to take blood samples from domestic and international travelers entering the country, in a bid to expand the epidemiological monitoring, and calls for the deportation of foreigners who test positive.

The bill would create a committee to combat AIDS consisting of the ministers of health, education, communications, labor, justice, finance and development and the heads of the National Planning Department and Administrative Department of Security (DAS).

It also envisages the creation of a major research center that would treat and monitor the syndrome nationwide and, along with the Health Ministry and blood banks, organize the monitoring of blood and its derivatives through laboratory certifications.

In addition, the Health Ministry and social security agencies would set up serum banks to conduct research that would provide guidelines for AIDS prevention and control strategies.

One of the bill's most important provisions is control, prevention and education campaigns, which the ministries of health, education and communications would be in charge of.

Moreover, it would create a national stamp to combat AIDS, the proceeds from which would be earmarked for hospital treatment of those infected with the virus.

Imports of reagents for laboratory examinations, therapeutic drugs and specific complementary equipment would be exempt from customs tariffs.

If the bill is passed, the administration will allocate a specific national budget item under the heading "combating AIDS," which will come on top of the funds earmarked for the Health Ministry and its branches.

The use of the funds to combat AIDS will be monitored by the Health Ministry, the General Comptrollership of the Republic and, in the branches, the departmental comptrollerships.

8743

100 Cases of AIDS Reported

54002081a Medellin EL COLOMBIANO in Spanish
22 Jul 87 p 31

[Text] Bogota (Colprensa)—One hundred cases of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) have been detected in Colombia, one of them a 13-year old boy, the head of epidemiology of the Health Ministry, Dr Guillermo Gacharna, asserted yesterday.

The boy's case was detected because he is a hemophiliac and, according to the official, acquired the infection in the United States.

There are no statistics in Colombia on the number of hemophiliacs or people who need ongoing blood transfusions to survive, according to an investigation recently revealed by Colprensa.

Identified

The official clarified that only 42 of the 100 AIDS cases have been completely identified in Bogota, adding that the rest exist and have been reported but that the Health Ministry does not have all of the personal data, which in any event must remain confidential.

Gacharna also revealed that the Health Ministry is working to establish a complete AIDS prevention and monitoring program in conjunction with other agencies. So far, however, monitoring does not exist at all blood banks or at high-risk sites.

He added that "in some city in the country" 2 years ago six auxiliary nurses pricked themselves with an AIDS-infected syringe and have been under observation since then, but no trace of the syndrome has been found.

As for the first child to have AIDS in Colombia, the specialist asserted that his family is already well aware of how to treat him and how to prevent blood-transmitted infection.

8743

Scope of Polio Vaccination Campaign Reported

54002078 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
27 Jul 87 p 5B

[Text] The goal for the first national polio vaccination campaign was reached.

During the mass immunization last Saturday throughout the country, 2,978,387 children under the age of five were vaccinated, according to a preliminary report from the Ministry of Public Health.

This figure indicates that the vaccination campaign reached 89 percent of the projected child population. The government had planned to immunize 3,244,726 children.

Health authorities estimate that this number might be higher because the children vaccinated at approximately 1,000 posts—mainly those in municipalities of Meta and Guainia and rural areas of several departments—have not been counted.

The final data on the campaign will not be learned until the end of this week due to communications problems, according to the director of epidemiology of the ministry, Manuel Guillermo Gacharna.

Initial reports on the campaign revealed that Arauca and Atlantico reached more children than projected by the Ministry of Health.

While Arauca surprisingly reached a vaccination percentage of 142.3 percent, Atlantico covered 100 percent of its projected population.

The success of the campaign in Atlantico was very important for health authorities. Atlantico has had the most cases of polio reported in the country in recent years.

In the first half of this year, 10 children in Barranquilla contracted polio.

However, the vaccination campaign in Cundinamarca and Cordoba was discouraging. In the former, immunization benefited barely 51,861 children (32.2 percent) and, in the latter, 44,476 (38 percent).

With the success of this first mass immunization, Colombia has begun to satisfactorily meet the challenge of eradicating polio from the territory by 1990.

It was possible to meet that challenge because of the vast support public and private entities gave the campaign, according to the minister of public health, Jose Granada Rodriguez.

He pointed out the endorsement and work done by EL TIEMPO and the radio networks, which, because of the campaign, merged their broadcasts for the first time. Their broadcast encouraged parents to bring their children to the vaccination posts.

The development of the campaign in various sections of the country was reported by EL TIEMPO correspondents.

Atlantico

Barranquilla, 26 Jul (Editorial office)—It was a better vaccination campaign than in the past.

Some 200,000 children in Atlantico were vaccinated against infantile paralysis.

The crusade in Barranquilla was outstanding because of the high rate of citizen cooperation, perhaps due to the epidemic that struck the Atlantico population in 1981. About 120 children died, and more were left with physical handicaps.

The prevention of polio had been neglected in this section of the country, one of the highest risk areas for contracting this type of disease preventable by vaccine.

In 1978, only 6.2 percent of the 109,719 children capable of contracting the disease were vaccinated. The statistics were similar in 1979.

Antioquia

Medellin, 26 Jul (Editorial office)—Initially 2,126 vaccination posts were set up in the department.

However, the crowd of parents at the posts was so overwhelming that health officials had to set up auxiliary posts in places like Barrio Castillo in Medellin, Itagui, and Bello.

Sucre

Sincelejo, 26 Jul (By Laureano Romero R.)—A large number of children in this capital were not vaccinated against polio in the campaign on Saturday, 25 July, because the vaccine ran out.

The shortage of vaccine was mostly due to mistakes in organization and distribution. The largest number of doses were distributed to hard to reach zones.

Tolima

Ibague, 26 Jul (By Arnulfo Sanchez)—About 125,000 children benefited from the mass immunization carried out Saturday in the department.

There were 410 posts in Tolima and 80 in Ibague, including the rural sector.

Choco

Quibdo (By Falconery Ruiz Cano)—The campaign was satisfactory in the department. It is estimated that more than 21,000 children were vaccinated against polio last 25 July.

Huila

Neiva, 26 July (By Jorge Parga Vanegas)—Huila confirmed its success in the campaign against polio. It vaccinated 81,655 children in the campaign Saturday, 96 percent of the goal.

The highest rates were in Garzon, Pitalito, La Plata, and Palermo. In the Neiva region, 41,770 children were inoculated.

The goal set for this first campaign—85 (6) children immunized—will be surpassed, according to the director of the health service, Victor Andrade Rojas.

Magdalena

Santa Marta, 26 Jul (By Walter Martinez P.)—During the campaign last Saturday, 142 (9) 2-pedal vaccinations were given in the department.

The campaign was carried out at 6 (1) posts set up in the 21 municipalities of Magdalena.

COSTA RICA

Meningitis Reported Countrywide

1402/582 San Jose, LA REPLY BLN, 1 in Spanish
17 Aug 87 p. 2

[Tir] According to official data from health officials, meningitis, especially viral meningitis, is present in every province in the country. The province most affected is Limon.

There were 102 cases in the country in the week of 9 August to 15 August alone. There has been a total of 1,672 so far this year. Last year there were only 581 cases reported during the same period.

The number of cases in Cartago increased yesterday. There is widespread alarm among the people who fear its spread.

Dr Leonardo Marranghelli, assistant director of the Directorate of Epidemiology of the Ministry of Health, explained that the spread of the disease in recent months is due to the introduction of a new virus which is causing the majority of the cases.

It is an enterovirus called "Coxsackie" which is found in the intestines. It invades different organs, including the meninges. It is transmitted fecally and orally.

The incidence of reported cases in the provinces during the week mentioned was as follows: 25 cases in Limon, 24 in San Jose, 16 in Alajuela, 15 in Heredia, 13 in Cartago, 5 in Guanacaste, and 4 in Puntarenas.

There have been 10 cases of viral meningitis in the city of Cartago since 26 July and 4 cases of bacterial meningitis. There were also 8 cases of viral meningitis in Turis, 2 in Paraiso, and 1 in Coto Brus for a total of 25 cases.

No deaths have been reported and 14 have already been discharged from the Max Peralta Hospital. However, 5 people remain hospitalized with viral meningitis and 1 with bacterial meningitis.

Dr Marranghelli stated that viral meningitis is not serious. It is a minor disease that cures itself and does not have lasting effects.

However, bacterial meningitis is a dangerous disease. It is fatal if not promptly treated.

The specialist emphasized that the people must be very careful about personal hygiene, bathtubs, and foods.

He recommended washing hands well with soap and water before meals, after using the bathroom, and when handling food.

The doctor stated: "Soap and water is a very simple prescription but it is the key to success."

He added that the disease spread in Cartago previously because of a lack of water and poor hygiene conditions in school bathrooms. For example, health inspectors found leakage of fecal matter in the Jesus Jimenez School in Cartago Centro.

The Municipality of Cartago called a press conference today to announce the sanitary problems of the city and the measures that will be taken to prevent the further spread of meningitis which has especially afflicted infants.

The most common symptoms of viral meningitis are intense headache, vomiting, nausea, unexplained general malaise, great sensitivity to light, and signs of pharyngitis. Marranghelli stated, however, that many cases have not presented a symptomatology.

Meningitis Cases Reported in 12nd Week
Ending 15 August
Costa Rica 1987
Distribution by Province

Province	Viral Meningitis	Bacterial Meningitis	Unspecified Meningitis
San Jose	18	1	1
Alajuela	12	4	0
Cartago	10	1	0
Heredia	14	1	0
Guanacaste	4	1	0
Puntarenas	2	1	1
Limon	23	2	0
National Total	81	15	2

Source: Section of Epidemiological Surveillance, Department of Information and Statistics, Ministry of Health.

GUATEMALA

Dengue Epidemic Strikes Escuintla

350 Persons Affected

1400376 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish
2 Aug 87 p 8

[Article by Salvador Hernandez S.]

[Excerpt] Escuintla—Some 350 people, all residents of the Las Golondrinas colony in this city, have been infected with "dengue" despite the work being done by a SNEM [National Service for Malaria Eradication] brigade. The death of a young female student who, according to her relatives, died from that disease is being mourned.

This was learned yesterday during a tour through that colony northeast of the city, where there are many uncultivated farms which could be breeding places for the mosquito "Aedes aegypti," carrier of this viral disease.

The residents reported that they have been affected by this disease which is also known as "flu or chola fever" or "bone-breaking or splitting" fever. The first symptoms are: aching joints, headache, vomiting and, in some cases, diarrhea. Then an "itchy" rash appears.

Almost all who contract this disease are ill and incapacitated for a period of 10 to 15 days. Few people escape the infection because the mosquito "aedes aegypti" lives and reproduces in stagnant water near the houses.

The "Aedes aegypti" which carries dengue and yellow fever lives in this city. These diseases are viral and cannot be cured, only treated symptomatically. They can only be transmitted by mosquito bite, according to SNEM.

Dengue spread through all the sectors of the Las Golondrinas colony 2 weeks ago. Several cases have already been detected in the mansion of Los Voladores. That is where Miss Ana Damaris Contreras Berger, a 16-year-old secondary student at La Nueva School in this city, came down with the disease on Thursday, 23 July.

According to her relatives, she had the symptoms mentioned above and died Tuesday, 28 July. The interim head of the local health headquarters, Dr. Cip 2 Gilberto Amadio, reported that the girl had died of septicemia although he admitted that she also suffered from dengue.

After learning of that death, SNEM employees, using all their resources, began a vast fumigation campaign to eliminate the breeding places of the mosquito "Aedes aegypti." However, cases persist and the mosquito continues to bite any inhabitant it finds in its way. This small insect is diurnal.

Facing the possibility of other outbreaks of dengue in this city, SNEM employees are working morning. They are examining all the municipalities that contain stagnant water especially in yards to detect the insect larva. Then they apply a poison that is harmless to humans and domestic animals.

Blood samples are being taken from people with symptoms of dengue and sent abroad for laboratory analysis.

Over 1,000 Persons Affected

1400376 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish
4 Aug 87 p 8

[Text] Far from being eradicated as public health officials assure, dengue has spread toward the urban population as well as to El Retiro, Huerfano, and Los Voladores colonies and the Masanga farm. More than 1,000 cases of this disease have been reported.

This was learned yesterday at the beginning of the first campaign against dengue organized by the UPE [Union of Journalists of Escuintla]. There was a meeting with SNEM employees who have received reports of many cases of this viral disease in the places mentioned and in Las Golondrinas colony.

Students from Santiago de los Caballeros de Guatemala School, the bilingual Escuintleño School, and the Miguel Angel Asturias School participated in the opening of this campaign. This group accompanied the parade of SNEM employees and members of the UPE.

A small ceremony was held in La Unión Park to inform the residents about the danger of the mosquito "Aedes aegypti," the carrier of dengue and yellow fever, and how to combat it.

The president of the UPE, journalist Salvador Hernandez, lamented the absence of top local authorities because it was not a political ceremony. He also disagreed with statements by the minister of public health, Dr. Carlos Armando Sam, who announced on the mass media that "dengue is under control." This is not true.

Alfredo Morán Aguilar, spokesman for the UPE, called the government official "irresponsible and damaging" for not giving the necessary attention to this dengue epidemic which is causing havoc in the Escuintla population.

The new campaign has received cooperation from the Coca Cola enterprise. Other enterprises had promised to work for the same cause but did not.

Dengue has spread to several sectors of the population and caused alarm among officials at the Santo Tomás presidential estate in this district, who then asked SNEM employees to spray the property.

HONDURAS

Conjunctivitis Epidemic Hits San Pedro Sula

Hundreds Affected

54002080 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish
15 Aug 87 p 48

[Text] San Pedro Sula—The outpatient department of the IHSS [Honduran Social Security Institute] alone issued 185 work disability slips yesterday because of the conjunctivitis epidemic in this city. The infection is spreading, according to the health records of the IHSS where medications to treat that viral infection have been used up.

The day before yesterday, 90 people received work disability slips because they had serious eye infections evidenced by a noticeable reddening from irritation of the pupils. The IHSS has issued more than 1,000 work disability slips during this conjunctivitis epidemic. More victims have been recorded now than 6 years ago.

Dr Jose Maria Ochoa, regional director of the IHSS, also has conjunctivitis. It appeared 3 days ago after the doctor, through journalists, gave explanations or instructions on the hygiene that people should observe to avoid being infected by a mosquito commonly called "jejen."

That viral eye infection is not only affecting work centers but the IHSS. The director of the regional office, Dr Rodrigo Barahona, said that medications and even the supply of work disability slips have been used up because of the excessive demand, according to his colleague Ochoa.

The spread of conjunctivitis also reached the doors of the Military School of the North where educational officials were forced to suspend school activities for 3 days to protect the health of the students. The same action was reported in other schools in the area with the objective of stopping the epidemic caused by the virus. The incubation period is 8 to 21 days, according to Dr Ochoa.

Mosquito Eradication Chemicals Lacking

54002080 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish
17 Aug 87 p 4

w:8.5q[Text] San Pedro Sula—While conjunctivitis has reached epidemic levels in the city and affected San Pedro Sula economic activity, the Department for Control of Carriers does not have insecticides and has declared itself incapable of controlling the hatching of the "jejen" mosquito. It is the main carrier of that disease that irritates the eyes and even causes high temperatures in infected people.

According to a spokesman for the Department for Control of Carriers which is under the Ministry of Public Health and Social Aid, the only natural way to confront

that insect is to wait until the end of the rainy season. In his opinion, that insect which is smaller than a mosquito but has a more irritating bite will disappear from the city when summer comes.

According to experts in that type of epidemic, widespread fumigation throughout the city and the surrounding area could limit the presence of the "jejen," an Antillean word for the dipterous insect that abounds on Caribbean beaches and in other regions of America.

However, the authorities have declared that they are incapable of systematically attacking that small carrier. Consequently, the employees of the Department for Control of Carriers lie around all day or play cards outside while that dipterous insect causes thousands of people to take leave from work and school. This has unquestionably affected the economic development process of the San Pedro Sula people.

7717

ICELAND

Officials Discuss AIDS Policy

54002497 Reykjavik MORGUNBLADID in Icelandic
30 Jul 87 p 5

[Article: "Study of Views and Knowledge of Aids: Incorrect Ideas About Ways of Infection"]

[Text] Joint Nordic Experiment With Medicine Reducing Aids Symptoms

In a study of people's views and knowledge of AIDS, conducted by the Institute of Social Sciences of the University of Iceland for the National Bureau of Public Health and the Ministry of Health and Social Security, it comes forth that wrong ideas about the infection of AIDS seem to be widespread. According to Dr. Haraldur Briem, specialist in immunology at the City Hospital, it is known that there are about 32 people with AIDS symptoms in the country; also, it is estimated that there are between 200 and 400 people who have been infected without knowing about it. It has been decided that Iceland will participate in a joint Nordic experiment in testing a new medicine that is said to reduce the symptoms among infected patients.

AIDS is contracted only through mixing blood, intercourse, and using unsterilized hypodermic needles, and it seems that almost all Icelanders between 18 and 75 realize that, according to the conclusion of the survey. However, incorrect ideas about other ways of infection seem to be widespread. Two of every three people who participated in the survey think that AIDS can be contracted through kissing; and more than one of every three people believe that AIDS can be contracted by using public toilets. Almost one out of every five people

think that AIDS can be carried in the water in the swimming pools, or by coughing or sneezing, and about 6 percent think that the disease can be contracted by shaking hands.

Preventative measures and information about AIDS given to the public are the main methods of fighting the spread of the disease. According to Minister of Health Gudmundur Bjarnason, the conclusions of the report show the results of an information blitz in schools and in the workplace. Surgeon General Olafur Olafsson said that he was fairly pleased with the results of the study, but he pointed out that, despite the fact that information booklets about the disease had been distributed to all households in the country, only about 43 percent of Icelanders between the ages of 18 and 75 had read it. "An effort is needed here," said Dr. Olafsson.

The information booklet seems to have reached fewer men than women, and the same can be said about inhabitants in the regional areas compared to people in Reykjavik and in Reykjanes. Those who have read the booklet seem, in most cases, to be better informed than others about the actual possible ways of contracting AIDS. Most people feel that the television provided the most reliable information about the disease, especially the Icelandic information programs and panel discussions. About 60 percent feel that the mass media has done enough about the discussion of AIDS, but 30 percent say that they minimized it. About 90 percent think that the condom is a powerful protection against AIDS, and about 98 percent think that people other than homosexuals can contract the disease. About 59 percent agree that infected individuals should be forbidden to work in food processing, despite the fact that specialists claim that there are no possibilities of the virus being carried in the food.

The survey was conducted during March 5-12 of this year; 1,500 people in the 18-to-75-year age group were polled nationwide. Answers were received from 74.3 percent or 1,115 people. The sample satisfactorily reflected the distribution of the whole nation based on age, gender, and domicile.

9583

MAURITIUS

AIDS Education, Testing Program Launched by Government

54000220 Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French
24 Jun 87 pp 1, 4

[Text] The minister of health has decided to spare no means for the prevention of AIDS in Mauritius despite the negative results yielded in tests last year on blood samples taken from 600 Mauritians and Rodriguans, some of them suffering from sexually transmitted diseases. A broad series of measures has been approved and will take effect starting next week. The measures will coincide with an awareness campaign that will involve talks and the distribution of pamphlets and posters.

The minister of health, Mr Goburdhun, made public yesterday afternoon the details of the new program which will lead into a 5-year plan to be drawn up by two experts who are expected to arrive soon from the World Health Organization, Dr B. Dando and Mrs Richardson. The program provides for (1) the introduction of HIV tests in Mauritius (The supplies needed to perform the "Elisa" test on blood donors and risk groups will soon be available.); (2) the application of a policy requiring that syringes be used no more than once on any patient; (3) the distribution of 50,000 pamphlets; and (4) the posting of 25,000 posters bearing such slogans as "Don't Aid AIDS," "Avoid Casual Sexual Partners," "Faithful Couples Are Not at Risk."

Since education and information are the best means of preventing AIDS, the minister of health has decided to organize a series of talks for youth clubs, students, teachers, employers and workers. All of these activities will be coordinated by the National AIDS Committee which is made up by the local representative of the WHO, Dr D. Fareed, the principal medical officer of the Preventive Medicine Department, the Ministry of Health's consultant pathologist, and the health educator. In addition to all of this, there will be a series of four television programs on AIDS to be aired starting next month.

Mr Goberdhun was careful to point out we cannot let down our guard, even though last year's tests of some 600 Mauritians and Rodriguans were negative. Carriers of the HIV virus, which is the cause of AIDS, may yet be found in Mauritius. The tests performed in the United States last year used samples taken from blood donors, prostitutes, hotel employees, sailors and victims of sexually transmitted diseases. The results were negative, but it must be remembered that Mauritius, with its increasing numbers of tourists, an open port and a rapidly expanding free trade zone, not to mention the number of Mauritians who travel, is just as much in danger as any other country.

It is against this backdrop that the large-scale program undertaken by the government is set. It is soon to be followed by a 5-year plan against AIDS.

12413/9738

SWEDEN

Sixty-Seven Percent of Country's AIDS Cases in Stockholm

54002401a Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish
17 Sep 87 p 16

[Article by Anna Jerden: "Sixty-Seven Percent of Aids Cases Found in Stockholm"; first paragraph is SVENSKA DAGBLADET introduction]

[Text] Of 100,000 inhabitants of Stockholm county, 67 are infected with HIV. The HIV infection is 13 times more common in Stockholm than elsewhere in the country, with the exception of Goteborg and Malmo.

In all areas, Stockholm County is the most exposed to criticism. This was confirmed by Dr Lennart Hellstrom, a city health official, who summarized the situation concerning HIV and AIDS at the end of June of this year.

In Stockholm 84 people have become ill with AIDS. That is 67 percent of all reported AIDS cases in the country, and can be compared with 19 cases in Malmo and 12 cases in Goteborg.

Eighty percent of all the AIDS cases in the country are homosexual or bisexual men. No drug addicts have yet become ill, but some of the 400 HIV-infected drug addicts have the initial stages of AIDS.

Malmo Far Behind

The HIV infection has been found in 1,039 people in Stockholm County. That is 69 percent of all the HIV-infected people in the country. Malmo is far behind with 137 infected. In Goteborg 94 HIV-infected people have been found, while 242 of the total 1,512 HIV-infected people live outside the three major cities.

Among 100,000 residents of Stockholm, 67 are HIV-infected, while the same share in Malmo is 18, in Goteborg 13, and elsewhere in the country outside the three major cities 5 of 100,000 are infected.

The numbers of newly discovered cases of HIV infection in Stockholm County do not indicate any decline in the spread of the infection. New cases in 1986: July 16, August 25, September 29, October 15, November 27 and December 20. New cases in 1987: January 22, February 20, March 21, April 24, May 12 and June 24.

Of the HIV-infected people in the country fully half are homosexual and bisexual men. One-fourth are injection drug addicts and one-tenth were infected through blood transfusions, five percent are heterosexual and five percent are a remaining group of children, immigrants, cases under investigation and unknowns.

Percent of Total Reported AIDS Cases Through 30 June 87

Stockholm	67
Malmo	15
Goteborg	9
Remainder of country	9

Percent of Total HIV-Infected People Through 30 June 87

Stockholm	69
Malmo	9
Goteborg	6
Remainder of country	16

9287

Country's First Clinic for Mandatory AIDS Treatment Opens

54002401b Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 17 Sep 87 p 16

[Article: "Clinic Opens for Mandatory Treatment"]

[Text] Sweden's first treatment center for mandatory treatment of HIV-infected people will be opened at Huddinge at the end of September.

Stockholm County Council has borrowed a treatment section from the forensic psychiatry clinic at Huddinge Hospital to receive patients from Stockholm's two infectious diseases clinics at Danderyd and Roslagstul Hospitals.

Since HIV infection is classified as a venereal disease under the law to protect from infection, HIV infected people who do not follow the instructions of the doctors and social workers can be sentenced to mandatory treatment.

In Stockholm there are now two people who risk being sentenced to mandatory treatment and being taken to the newly opened section of Huddinge Hospital.

The mandatory treatment center at Huddinge is, however, only a temporary solution until the County Council finds a better and more suitable location for mandatory treatment of the HIV-infected. It is planned that this will happen by the end of the year.

9287

Free-Needles Program Results in Discovery of More AIDS Cases

54002504a Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 20 Aug 87 p 8

[Article by Gun Leander: "Since the Addicts Received Clean Syringes HIV Tests Have Doubled"; first paragraph is DAGENS NYHETER introduction]

[Text] HIV testing among drug addicts has doubled, and many formerly unknown addicts have been identified since they began the effort in Lund to distribute sterile syringes and hypodermic needles to drug addicts.

This was disclosed in the latest issue of LAKARTIDNINGEN, which reported on the first six months of the program.

One hundred eighty-nine addicts, of which many were unknown to drug treatment centers, have been identified for information on protection from infection, condom distribution and motivation for drug treatment, according to Supervising Doctor Bengt Ljungberg, Assistant Professors Bertil Christensson and Bo Ursing, Sociologist Bengt Andersson and Supervising Doctor Kerstin Tunving at the Drug Treatment Unit at Lund.

At first criticism of the activity was severe. Many feared that distribution of sterile disposable syringes would promote increased drug abuse. But this has not happened, according to the infectious diseases doctors at Lund. Recruiting of new young injection addicts in southern Skane has instead declined during recent years.

Self Protection

The goal of the program is to help the individual addict to protect himself against HIV infection, and in the long run to prevent an epidemic. In all of Europe the percentage of addicts among the AIDS cases is increasing. More than half of the infected children have gotten the infection from mothers who are addicts or are heterosexual partners of addicts.

WHO has recommended the distribution of sterile syringes and needles as a part of an offensive in drug treatment, which also includes methadone therapy. The Social Welfare Administration insists that no law forbids doctors from distributing syringes to addicts. But since the project in Lund conflicts with current practice, the Social Welfare Administration wants it to be held to a minimum.

One of the practical problems they have had in Skane has been cooperation with the police, who in certain cases have confiscated recently distributed syringes. It was agreed, however, that since they were handed out by doctors the syringes should be regarded as medicine, and therefore should not be seized.

More Were Tested

A distinct increase in HIV testing was one of the results of this project. The Infectious Diseases Clinic in Lund succeeded in gaining the confidence of addicts in all of southern Sweden. During the six months they have tested almost twice as many injection addicts as during the entire period 1984-86. Over 40 non-addicted sexual partners of formerly unknown addicts have allowed themselves to be tested. This was considered to be a very difficult group to test.

Among the addicts who have come to get new syringes the average age is 29.7 years and the addiction has lasted for an average of 11 years. Over half of them have had previous contact with drug treatment. It is hoped that this group will grow, thanks to the drug treatment people in the clinic. Today the resources are insufficient for a systematic processing through to treatment and detoxification.

Interest by other infectious diseases clinics in Sweden is very great. A number of infectious diseases clinics around the country have now begun to distribute syringes to addicts, including most clinics in southern Sweden. The group hopes that primary treatment centers can begin to distribute syringes in places in the country which do not have infectious diseases clinics.

09287

HIV Virus Now Seen Threat To Amphetamines-User Group

54002504b Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 8 Aug 87 p 6

[Article by Eva Wrange: "HIV Increasing in New Addict Group", first paragraph is SVENSKA DAGBLADET introduction]

[Text] The HIV infection is now being spread among amphetamine addicts. This was confirmed by a study at Kronobergshuset in Stockholm where 350 injection addicts were investigated this year.

"This is worrisome for several reasons. Primarily because amphetamine is considered a sexual stimulant. That means that the sexual spreading among addicts and the women around them goes swiftly."

So said Robert Olin, professor of social medicine at Karolinska Institute, and an expert at the State Bacteriological Laboratory (SBL). He heads the HIV project at Kronobergshuset, which has been going on since January of this year.

It is the sexual habits among amphetamine users which primarily concerns the scientists. The HIV infection among heroin users is mainly spread from blood to blood via syringes.

Amphetamine is a central stimulant drug which makes the user hyperactive. Feelings of hunger are suppressed and the sexual appetite and endurance are increased.

"So far we have tested 400 addicts, of which 350 are injection addicts, and we have found that over 50 are HIV positive. Of those, nine are newly discovered cases."

It is the newly discovered cases which are interesting. The scientists found them among those who only use amphetamine, or those who mix amphetamine with other drugs, with amphetamine as the main drug.

"Formerly it was the heroin addicts who were the hardest hit group among the injection addicts, but these findings indicate a spreading over to new groups. Two Year Project

The research project works with money from the AIDS Delegation, and will continue for two years. During that time they expect to come in contact with three-fourths of Stockholm's injection addicts.

Addicts at Kronobergshuset get the HIV test and are interviewed about their sexual and drug habits. Everything is voluntary.

"There are 20 percent who do not want to. Those who do not dare can be a real risk group. But we have not analyzed those numbers yet."

Difficult to Change Habits

The interviews are very basic and the results show how difficult it is, despite the known risks and the special jeopardy of addicts, to change habits.

"The majority are incapable of either changing their sex habits or their addiction to any great degree. Condoms are very unusual among these people."

In Stockholm it is estimated that there are 800 pure heroin addicts, 1,600 addicts of mixed drugs and 3,000 amphetamine addicts. Half of those who are received at Kronobergshuset are injection addicts.

"But establishing the number of injection addicts in Stockholm is a broad estimate," said Robert Olin.

New HBLV Herpes Virus Found Widespread

54002504c Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET
in Swedish 15 Aug 87 p 6

[Article by Inger Atterstam: "New Herpes Virus Widespread"; first paragraph is SVENSKA DAGBLADET introduction]

[Text] The new herpes virus—HBLV or herpes virus 6—which was recently first discovered in AIDS patients seems to be spread among a large part of the population.

Antibodies against the virus have been found in between 25 and 50 percent of the normal population. The appearance of antibodies is a sign that the virus once infected an individual, and it is remarkable that the herpes virus has the ability to hide in an inactive status for the remainder of the life of the host.

Furthermore a research group has found proof that this new virus appears in connection with the observed chronic infections of the EBV virus, another herpes virus.

This illness is drawing attention just now because of the interest in the still unexplained epidemics of lengthy fatigue being investigated in the United States in, among other places, several towns around Lake Tahoe.

Yuppie Flu

It is the phenomenon which has come to be known as "yuppie flu" and which is characterized by the infected persons having signs of active infection by the EBV virus (Epstein-Barr virus).

"It appears that the newly discovered herpes virus 6 is activated in patients who have an EBV infection," said Professor Britta Wahren at the State Bacteriological Laboratory (SBL).

Previously herpes virus 6 or HBVL was suspected of causing certain forms of blood cancer or leukemia.

"It is difficult today, however, to state definitely whether the virus is involved in the occurrence of cancer, or whether it is activated as a result of the illness," said Britta Wahren.

This new information about herpes virus 6 was presented at the International Virus Congress which is now taking place in Edmonton, Canada.

It was originally Robert Gallo—one of the discoverers of the AIDS virus—who first found this new virus.

Tied to Cancer

Also in Edmonton entirely new facts are being presented about the virus HTLV I—a retro virus which was also discovered by Robert Gallo and Japanese scientists. It is the first virus which could be tied to cancer in humans, because it causes a seldom-seen type of blood cancer.

It has now also been proved that HTLV I is behind a severe neurological illness called spastic paralysis, which is the most common neurological illness in tropical countries. Reports from Jamaica and Colombia show a clear connection between this illness and the HTLV I virus.

The illness takes the form of convulsive paralysis, and it successively gets worse.

There are worrisome indications that HTLV I is now spreading in the wake of the AIDS epidemic. The virus has been found in drug addicts infected with HIV in several large cities such as New York, London and Rome. It is also found in Japan, India, the Caribbean islands, certain parts of Italy, Greece and Africa.

Test Blood Donors

HTLV I was first discovered in Japan and in the Caribbean islands. In the United States more extensive testing has been introduced to detect HTLV I, and demands have been made by several scientists to test all blood donors for antibodies against HTLV I.

HTLV I is spread like the HIV virus via sexual contact and via blood from pregnant mothers to children. It is also believed that breast milk can carry the virus. Furthermore some suspect that HTLV I can be spread by insects.

TURKEY

Increase in Typhoid, Diarrhea Cases

54002498 Istanbul *MILLIYET* in Turkish
16 Jul 87 pp 2, 8

[Excerpt] The rate of growth in the incidence of diarrhea, which has caused nearly 100 deaths of children according to official statistics, has slowed down. Still, during the last week six children have died in various provinces due to diarrhea-related dehydration. Meanwhile, typhoid—a distinctly summer disease—has come back to the headlines.

The Diarrhea Situation

It was reported by MIL-HA Adana correspondent Mustafa Baskan that in Adana, which is under the scourge of various contagious diseases, the number of children dying from diarrhea has gone up to 15. Dr Kaya Kilicoglu, head of State Hospital children's clinic, has said that up to 4,000 children have been down with diarrhea requiring treatment in bed. However, while there were between 30 and 40 deaths per day during the previous month, now the number has gone down to 10.

In Gaziantep, where 121 people have been hospitalized because of diarrhea, the number of deaths has reached 32 with the death of one more child.

From southeastern provinces, where incidence of death due to diarrhea has been the highest, the news is slightly better this time. Instead of sorrowful reports of death, the news is that the number of those afflicted with diarrhea is gradually declining. According to a survey conducted in five provinces by the MIL-HA Diyarbakir Office during last week there was no incidence of death at health institutions.

In the Aegean region no diarrhea-related deaths have been encountered this month.

Typhoid Kills

Typhoid, mainly caused by failing to wash vegetables and fruits, as well as by the seepage of sewage into drinking water, has become almost an epidemic in Saraykoy, Denizli. Reported by MIL-HA correspondent Sedat Acar is that the number of those undergoing treatment in the small town has gone up to 256. A patient at the hospital, Sevkettin Cetin, treated for typhoid, has also lost his life. Dr Cengiz Donmez, director of health in the province, said that drinking water is doubly checked in the lab, and no microbe entity has been encountered. Nevertheless, it would be advisable for the public to boil the water before drinking.

12466/9738

UNITED KINGDOM

New Definition To Show Sharp Rise in AIDS Figures

54500018 Dublin *IRISH INDEPENDENT* in English
8 Sep 87 p 3

[Article by Steve Brennan]

figures will rise dramatically within weeks as new medical definitions of the fatal disease are introduced, it was revealed yesterday.

The Deputy Chief Medical Officer with the Department of Health and Ireland's Coordinator of Aids strategy, told an international conference that the World Health Organization (WHO) definition of what constituted full-blown Aids must be broadened.

And the new definition which the people would be introduced within the next month, would include the Aids related illness, ARL—Aids Related Complex.

Until now ARC victims, who can die from the condition, have been told they do not have Aids.

"We have the ludicrous situation in which a doctor can tell an ARC victim that he did not have an Aids condition but he would die the next day anyway," said Dr. Walsh at the European Federation of Therapeutic Communities Conference in Trinity College, Dublin.

The inclusion of advanced ARC cases among Ireland's official Aids statistics would significantly increase official figures. But Dr. Walsh could not give a clear indication of how many extra cases there might be.

ARC is not a reportable illness so official figures here are not available. However, it is known generally that at least 10 prisoners in Mountjoy jail are sufferers.

Unlike full Aids, the syndrome is not always fatal and victims can revert to simply being HIV positive—having Aids antibodies in their blood but not suffering from the actual disease.

The re-classification will also include the condition known as Aids-related dementia or neurological Aids. This is a condition which does not commonly involve the normal full-blown Aids symptoms but strikes at the brain causing the victim to display all the clinical signs of dementia.

And it will also involve Aids-related TB cases. Medical scientists have now found that a normally harmless TB spread to humans by birds—avian TB—can be keyed to attack humans by the Aids virus.

This condition too, which so far has not been seen in Ireland, I will constitute classification as full-blown Aids. Ultimately, this could be very significant in this country.

because we stand high on the international list for TB incidence. Dr. Walsh said there were no plans to repeat the Aids "safe sex" campaign of last May but the Department would be concentrating on the most-at-risk group—intravenous drug users in the inner city.

To this end the Department would be mobilizing teams of volunteers to work closely with drug abusers in Dublin.

Dr. Walsh said Ireland's future full Aids figures would be much higher than experts initially feared.

Official statistics showed Ireland had more than 630 HIV positive cases. And there were fears that the true figure could be double.

The Minister of State at the Department of Health, Mr. Leyden said the incidence of drug abuse in Ireland was now leveling out since reaching a peak in the early 1980s.

In Britain, Aids was now claiming an average of one life every day. Figures out today from the Department of Health and Social Security show that in August 43 people died from the disease.

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CANADA

Mercury in Manitoba Lakes, Fish Linked to Dams

54200005 Toronto *THE GLOBE AND MAIL* in English 23 Sep 87 p B17

[Article by Tamsin Carlisle]

[Text] A decade after being caught off-guard by the discovery of elevated mercury levels in fish from man-made lakes in northern Manitoba, federal and provincial scientists think they have got to the bottom of the mystery.

However, their conclusions offer cold comfort to native Indian bands that depend on the fish for food. They also raise disturbing implications for other reservoir and hydroelectric development projects.

"It may take decades for mercury methylation rates and mercury levels in fish to return to pre-impoundment levels in northern reservoirs," a team of researchers from three federal and three Manitoba government departments concludes in the 71-page summary of a five-volume report scheduled for release later this month.

"Elevated mercury levels in fish following a reservoir impoundment is a widespread problem."

The report was prepared as part of a 1983 agreement between the federal and Manitoba governments to study mercury in the lakes created when the Churchill and Nelson rivers—two of the largest in Western Canada—were diverted to generate hydroelectric power.

Six years earlier, routine testing of commercial catches had revealed that fish caught from many of the diversion lakes had mercury levels too high to permit their sale in any market.

In some instances, the fish had accumulated mercury at concentrations of two parts per million—four times higher than the limit of 0.5 parts per million for fish sold in Canada, and double the level allowed by U.S. authorities.

The test results came as a surprise. Feasibility studies conducted during the 1960s had failed to predict that the hydroelectric project would have any effect on environmental mercury.

At the same time, publicity following major outbreaks of methyl mercury poisoning—in Japan during the 1960s, and in Iraq in 1971 and 1972—was creating widespread concern about the health effects of eating mercury-contaminated fish.

Methyl mercury—the predominant form of mercury found in fish—irreversibly damages the human nervous system.

Unborn babies are especially at risk. In Japan, some mothers who displayed only mild symptoms of poisoning gave birth to infants with severe cerebral palsy.

Adults suffering from methyl mercury poisoning may experience a range of neurological problems, including sensory disturbances, lack of coordination, and impairment of vision, hearing, speech and gait.

Health and Welfare Canada has offered a mercury testing service to native communities along the Churchill River Diversion route since 1976.

Researchers found that mercury levels in the blood of Cree Indians from the South Indian Lake and Nelson House communities—the two groups most likely to consume large quantities of diversion-lake fish—are generally within the normal range for humans of zero to 20 parts per million. However, the report expresses concern that mercury levels as high as 125 parts per million were found in some women of child-bearing age.

The report also notes that the northern Manitoba Indian communities have not been exposed to high levels of mercury in their diets for as long as the populations that were studied in Japan.

Moreover, the scientists found that mercury levels in fish-eating mammals such as mink and otter are higher in the diversion region than in other parts of Manitoba.

After ruling out the possibility that large amounts of mercury could be entering the region through agricultural, industrial or mining activities, the report concludes that almost all the mercury in the Churchill River Diversion area comes from natural sources—ultimately from the region's bedrock.

However, extensive land-flooding may have drastically altered the previous balance between methylated and inorganic (mineral) forms of mercury.

Under natural conditions, bacteria convert inorganic mercury into methyl mercury and vice-versa, but a number of environmental factors may affect the relative rates of these processes.

The report concludes that the most important factor affecting methyl mercury production is the amount and type of material inundated when a reservoir is formed.

Laboratory and field experiments showed that moss, peat, black spruce branches, and prairie sod, as well as fresh-water algae, speed up the rate at which bacteria convert inorganic mercury to methyl mercury, but have little effect on the reverse process.

The scientists failed to find evidence that methylation rates in the region are declining, even though the lakes they studied were formed more than 10 years previously. This indicates that mercury levels in diversion-lake fish may remain high for decades, the report concludes.

Two other recently completed studies of river-diversion projects in northern Quebec and South Carolina also found mercury levels in fish rose sharply after land was flooded to form reservoirs.

Although the researchers unravelled much of the mystery surrounding the unexpectedly high mercury levels found in fish from the Churchill River Diversion, they were largely unable to offer solutions to the problem.

The report recommends continued monitoring of mercury levels in the region's fish populations, and that fish-management activities should be introduced. The latter would include recommendations that only non-predatory and small-sized fish should be eaten, compensation for losses to commercial fisheries and the provision of alternative fishing opportunities.

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CHINA

Sheep Aphtha Virus Identified

40110050x Lanzhou ZHONGGUO SHOUYI KEJI
[CHINESE JOURNAL OF VETERINARY SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY] in Chinese
No 4, 20 Apr 87 pp 3-4

[Article by Guo Suzhen [6753 4790 3791], Zhang Huian [1728 1920 1344], Kuang Minghui [6782 2494 1979], Wang Jincheng [3769 6651 2052], Huang Shouming [7806 1343 2494], and Mohedaer [5459 0678 6671 1422], Veterinary Institute, Xinjiang Academy of Animal Husbandry Science: "Research on the Separation and Identification of Sheep Aphtha Pathogenes"]

[Abstract] Research on the separation and identification of aphtha pathogenes has found aphtha to be caused by an orf virus in the pox virus family. This article details the research leading to this conclusion providing information about the materials and methods used to separate pathogenes and artificially infect animals with them, the electron microscope observations made, and comments on results obtained.

Identification of this virus marks an advance toward controlling this mouth disease of sheep, which is prevalent in sheep-raising areas throughout the world, and which has a serious harmful effect on sheep raising.

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GHANA

Cattle Movement Restricted Because of Rinderpest

AB022126 Accra Domestic Service in English
2000 GMT 2 Oct 87

[Text] With immediate effect, the movement of cattle has been banned within a 32 kilometers radius of Kumasi, Berekum, Techiman, Savelugu, and five villages near Walewale. The villages include Langbinsi and Hamile. The ban follows an outbreak of rinderpest in cattle in these areas and it is meant to prevent the spread of the disease. Meanwhile an intensive vaccination exercise is being carried out in the infested areas to control the disease.

A statement signed by the secretary for agriculture, Commodore Steve Obimpeh, stressed that movement of livestock outside the infested areas would be permitted only under veterinary movement permits. All cattle dealers intending to transport cattle are therefore kindly requested to contact officials of the Animal Health and Production Department in their respective areas. The ministry appeals to the police at various checkpoints and barriers to enforce the ban by inspecting the veterinary movement permits of persons moving cattle.

0052

UNITED KINGDOM

Swine Fever Confirmed, Preventive Steps Urged

Appeal to Common Market

54500014 Belfast NEWS LETTER in English
8 Sep 87 p 4

[Text] The Common Market was urged yesterday to restrict imports of pigmeat following the outbreak of classical swine fever in Great Britain.

More than 2,500 pigs on a farm near Basingstoke, Hants, were slaughtered and movement restrictions imposed in the area by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Pig breeders have been convinced for some time that the deadly disease can be introduced in infected imported pigmeat and they claim a recent EC scientific report backs this up.

"The recent outbreak of classical swine fever confirms our worst fears," said Mr Geoffrey Cloke, chairman of a National Pig Breeders' Association.

"The EC has been less than responsible in not facing up to the conclusions of their own scientific working group which confirmed that the swine fever virus can survive in lightly cured and insufficiently processed pigmeat."

The association has urged the EC to review control arrangements and to introduce restrictions on lightly cured bacon and lightly processed pigmeat from countries where the disease exists.

Mr Cloke said: "It is essential the United Kingdom maintains its disease free status."

The Ministry of Agriculture has placed a ban on the movement of animals within a five-mile radius of a south Shropshire farm because of suspected foot-and-mouth disease in a flock of sheep, a spokesman said.

However, late last night a ministry spokesman said tests had shown no sign of foot and mouth disease at the farm and the movement ban was lifted.

More Details Given

54500014b Leeds YORKSHIRE POST in English
12 Sep 87 p 6

[Text] An outbreak of classical swine fever has been confirmed in a pig herd near South Warnborough, Basingstoke, Hampshire. The source of infection is under investigation.

The disease last occurred in 1986 when there were ten outbreaks confirmed between April and June. Prior to that the disease had not occurred since 1971.

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